

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR

RUFRRSH / USDOCOSOUTH

USLOSACLANT

USNATO 964

USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T OSLO 1089

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (O T T A W A A D D E D A S I N F O A D D E E)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, MOPS, SP, NO

SUBJECT: NAVOCFORMED PORT CALL TO BARCELONA

REFS: (A) USNATO 1373 (B) OSLO 806 (C) OSLO 1087

1. THE TEXT OF THE TALKING POINTS HANDED AMBASSADOR CROWE BY NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAARVIK FOLLOWS. FOR A FULL REPORT ON THEIR DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED VISIT, SEE REF (C).

2. BEGIN QUOTE. THE QUESTION OF AN OFFICIAL VISIT BY A NATO NAVAL FORCE TO A SPANISH PORT HAS POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS WHICH ARE OF SOME CONCERN BOTH IN RELATION TO NORWEGIAN AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION.

SINCE THE INCEPTION OF NATO THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE, HAVE HELD THE OPINION THAT IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE ALLIANCE THERE SHOULD BE NO COOPERATION OR ASSOCIATION BETWEEN NATO AND THE PRESENT REGIME IN SPAIN. SPECULATIONS REFLECTED FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE PAST IN INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA CONCERNING ALLEGED PLANS TO ESTABLISH CERTAIN TIES BETWEEN NATO AND SPAIN HAVE INVARIABLY BEEN MET WITH STRONG NEGATIVE REACTIONS IN THE PUBLIC OPINION OF NORWAY AND IN THAT OF OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES.

IN NATO MINSTERIAL MEETINGS SUCCESSIVE NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS HAVE STRESSED THAT THE LACK OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN SOME MEMBER COUNTRIES UNDERMINES PUBLIC SUPPORT OF NATO AND IMPERILS THE IMAGE OF THE ALLIANCE IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD. THEY HAVE UNDERLINED THAT THE COHESION AND SECURITY OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE ARE NOT ONLY DEPENDENT ON MILITARY FORCE BUT ALSO ON THE POLITICAL AND MORAL STRENGTH AND ATTITUDES OF MEMBER COUNTRIES.

A NATO NAVAL VISIT TO SPAIN WOULD WITHOUT DOUBT BE WIDELY REPORTED AND COMMENTED UPON IN INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA AND WOULD AGAIN BRING TO THE FOREFRONT SPECULATIONS ABOUT A POSSIBLE SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO.

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SUCH SPECULATIONS WOULD CERTAINLY ALSO BE REFLECTED
IN THE NORWEGIAN PRESS AND WOULD INITIATE A NEW DEBATE
ON NATO BASED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF ADDING ANOTHER AUTOCRATIC
GOVERNMENT TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ALLIANCE. THOSE FORCES
IN NORWAY WHICH ARE AGAINST OUR MEMBERSHIP IN NATO, WOULD
CERTAINLY KNOW HOW TO EXPLOIT SUCH A SITUATION.

THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT AN OFICIAL NATO NAVAL VISIT
UNDER NATO FLAG TO A SPANISH PORT WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE
INFLUENCE UPON THE SUPPORT OF NATO IN NORWEGIAN PUBLIC OPINION.
THIS IS ALL THE MORE SO, AS IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO AVOID
THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS VISIT HAS WELL DEFINED POLITICAL
OBJECTIVES.

THE RECENT PUBLIC OPINION POLLS ON NORWAY' S MEMBERSHIP
IN NATO HAVE SHOWN A STRONG SUPPORT OF THE ALLIANCE, AND
IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE IF THIS POSITIVE ATTITUDE
SHOULD BE UNDERMINED BY A NEW DEBATE ON THE ISSUE OF FUTURE
RELATIONS BETWEEN NATO AND THE PRESENT REGIME IN SPAIN.

ON THIS BACKGROUND MY GOVERNMENT HOPE THAT THE UNITED
STATES AND OUR OTHER ALLIES WILL RECONSIDER THE QUESTION
OF WHETHER AN OFFICIAL VISIT BY A NATO NAVAL FORCE TO
A SPANISH PORT WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE
ALLIANCE. END QUOTE.
CROWE

RUESMDQ/ AMEMBASSY MADRID 081

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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